

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
MFA FINAL VISUAL PRESENTATION

by

BIANCA ELIZABETH EMMA KHAN

A THESIS

SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF FINE ARTS


IN

SCULPTURE

DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

EDMONTON, ALBERTA

WINTER 1997



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty
of Graduate Studies and Research, for acceptance, a thesis entitled:

Final Visual Presentation

submitted by BIANCA ELIZABETH EMMA KHAN in partial

fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Art.

The University of Alberta

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FOR WHICH THESIS WAS GRANTED MASTER OF FINE ARTS

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DEPARTMENT OF ART AND DESIGN

GRADUATE STUDIES

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

I hereby release the following works for incorporation into the University Collections,
University of Alberta, as part of the Master of Fine Arts Thesis Collection:

TITLE	DATE	MEDIUM	SIZE
Poncho's Gal	1996	Steel	56.5"x50"x41"



Bianca Khan

One

Somebody

This exhibition is the final visual presentation in partial fulfillment for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Sculpture.

February 18 - March 9, 1997

Opening Reception

Thursday, February 27, 1997

7:00 - 10:00 pm

fine arts building gallery

1 - 1 Fine Arts Building
University of Alberta

112 Street and 89 Avenue

Edmonton, AB Canada

T6G 2C9

Hours: Tuesday to Friday 10-5pm

Sunday 2-5 pm

(403) 492-2081



The Alberta
Foundation
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fab
Fine Arts Building
gallery

Department of Art and Design

University of Alberta

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Jimmy Durante sang: "Make someone happy,
one someone happy".

Applying these lyrics to graduate studies in steel sculpture, leads to the question - Just who are we trying to make happy? Jimmy Durante sang a song in 1963 which I remember hearing on the radio as a child. At that time, the lyrics made sense to me on a child's level of understanding and communication. My world was small and uncomplicated and the 'who' I had to make happy amounted to few in numbers - parents, family, teachers and God. Then over the years my understanding of who I'm trying to make happy has changed as well as the act of communicating this perception. Now there is my spouse, family, children, teachers, assorted bill collectors and God. The list becomes endlessly longer and more complicated as well as interwoven and unbalanced. Where do I fit in?

Using mostly reclaimed materials from the scrap yard, I have delighted in the possibilities of assembling them into sculptural things. The main concern is - do they work as sculpture? The organic forms combined with architectural elements meld together to create form, volume and space - the basis for my sculpture. The end result are sculptures with tactile form - inviting touch.

Is there a possibility of someone else seeing something pleasing in these sculptures? My wish for those viewing these works would be to enjoy them with the questioning openness and innocence of a child. For I am just one somebody, choosing the medium of steel to make my statement. Possibly you'll find something pleasing in these works as well. Enjoy.

Kahn becomes woman of steel

VISUAL ARTS

**BY WENDY
BOULDING**

PreVUE

Sculptress Bianca Kahn wants everyone who views her work to keep an open mind. In order to do this, she believes you must become a child again.

That might be a bit difficult considering her medium of choice is steel. Steel is more symbolic of

the harsh realities of an adult world rather than the softness of childhood. But to her credit, Kahn has manipulated the metal into interesting pieces that trigger the imagination.

Ranging from massive pieces that took Kahn months to sculpt to smaller, more intricate artworks, the exhibit screams of exploration. Entitled *One Somebody*, this collection of work was part of Kahn's thesis. It also allowed the artist to establish herself within the medium.

"Steel is a wonderful medium to work with in terms of what it can do," explained Kahn. "Steel lets you be freer because you can work with the pieces so much easier. I like the way the steel fits together."

Not working with an image, Kahn is more fascinated with the edges of steel. Intuitively, she feels out the metal to determine where each piece will be placed within the sculpture.

"Edmonton is a great place to work in steel because there are so many other artists working with it who have created a community," she said.

Kahn has noticed people tend to quickly determine whether or not they like or dislike steel. From her experiences, it's difficult to convince viewers to keep an open mind about steel. At times metal can seem unapproachable, but the magnitude of interpretation left to the observer can be a welcome experience. ●

**Bianca Kahn, *One Somebody*
FAB Gallery
Closes Mar. 9**

*Vue Weekly:
March 6-12, 1997,
p. 24.*

If steel could sing

Artist's Statement

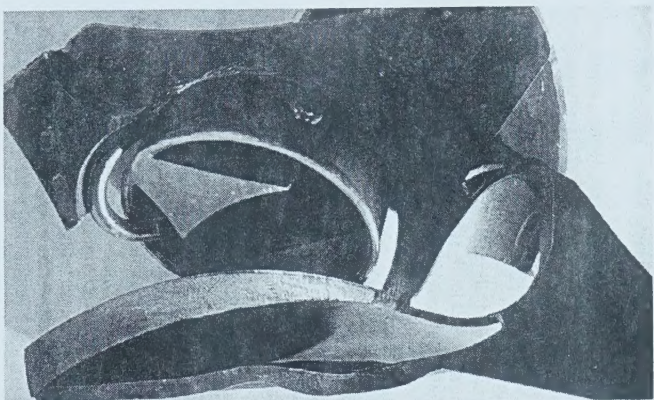
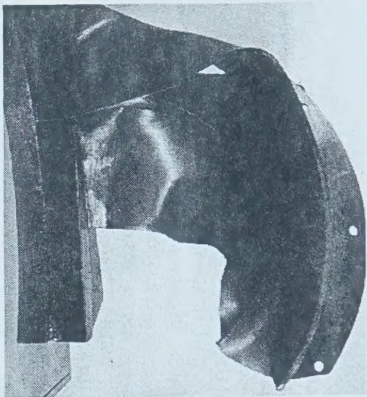
By Bianca Khan

Jimmy Durante sang: "Make someone happy, one someone happy."

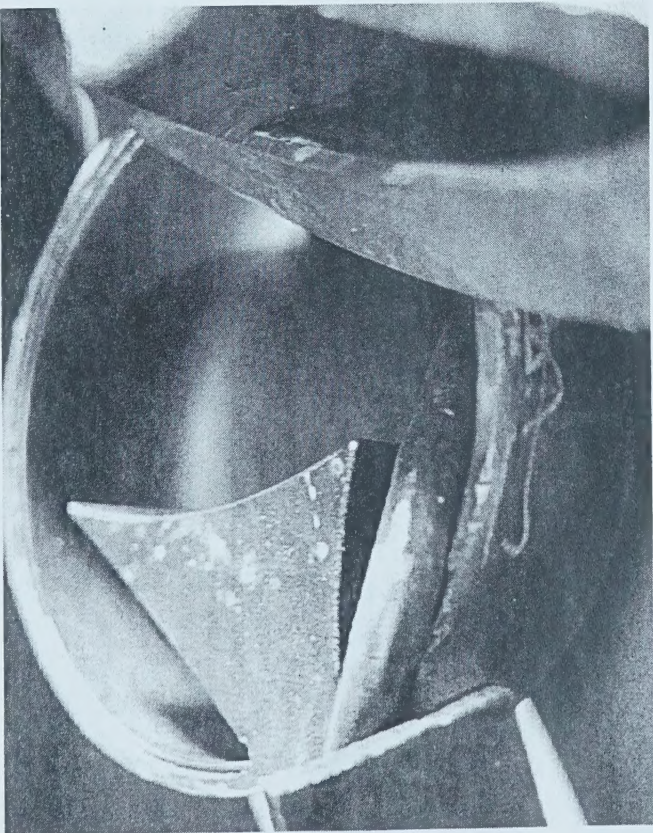
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Bianca Khan



Bianca Khan used a fork lift and a truck with a cherry picker to install her recent exhibition, *One Somebody*, showing at the Fine Arts Building Gallery until March 9. Khan completed the works as part of the requirements for her MFA in sculpture.

SLIDE LIST

1.	<i>Bianca Khan, One Somebody</i> , February 1997		
2.	<i>Lil' Red Speedy</i> , 1997	56" X 43" X 41"	Steel
3.	<i>Newton's Calculus</i> , 1996	48.5" X 38" X 59"	Steel
4.	<i>Odonata</i> , 1997	62" X 130" X 54"	Steel
5.	<i>St. Audrey's Lace</i> , 1996	71" X 78" X 81"	Steel
6.	<i>St. Audrey's Lace</i> , 1996	71" X 78" X 81"	Steel
7.	<i>Poncho's Gal</i> , 1996	56.5" X 50" X 41"	Steel
8.	<i>Tuus</i> , 1995	12.5" X 28" X 28"	Steel
9.	<i>37mm ϕ</i> , 1995	27" X 31" X 21"	Steel
10.	<i>Lackawanna</i> , 1997	36" X 48" X 19"	Steel
11.	<i>Full Circle</i> , 1996	13.5" X 25" X 25"	Steel
12.	<i>Snail's Pace</i> , 1997	61" X 57" X 29"	Steel
13.	<i>Nabu</i> , 1996	66" X 64" X 76"	Steel

